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UCAPAWA News

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING & ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO

VOL. II.—NO. 17 MAY 28, 1942

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Sweep Consolidated Poll

Campbell's Soup:

Chalks Up Gains in 2nd Pact

Camden, N. J.—After more than two months of negotiations, Local 80 and Campbell Soup Co. have finally reached an agreement on the second contract to be signed by UCAPAWA in this plant. The first contract was won about a year ago.

Improvements won by the union, after longdrawn-out tussles around the conference table, and a series of overflow membership meetings, includes:

1. Three and one-half cent wage increase.

TWO WEEKS' VACATION

2. Two weeks' vacation with pay for all employees with one or more years' seniority. (Last year, vacations were one week.)

3. For employees with less than one year's seniority, two days' [illegible] instead of one day, as formerly.

4. Christmas to be a paid holiday.

5. A seniority list presented to the union.

SETTLE "BEEFS" BETTER

6. Changes in grievance machinery, to achieve more efective settlement of grievances: the Steward will accompany the individual to the foreman instead of the individual going alone; Chief Steward to be called in whenever needed by Steward; and compulsory arbitration of all unsettled grievances.

7. Departmental seniority in

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VOLUNTEER SHED ORGANIZERS meet one Sunday morning with the UCAPAWA representatives in Salinas, Calif., where the drive, started during deals in other areas, Hancock and Int. Rep. Chas W. Decker. Dixie Tiller, Int. Vice-Pres. who heads the drive, is seated at the table. Surrounding him (l. to r.) are "Concrete Bill" Pace, Int. Rep. Robert McKay, John McInnerney, Jim Heatherly, Harry Cox, John Flynn, Louis Friedman, W. S. Roberts, F. E. De Pue, Earl Montgomery, and John Arthur.

Vote: CIO -- 494 AFL -- 80

Lancaster, Pa.—Turning in a vote of 494 for Local 638, UCAPAWA-CIO, workers at Consolidated Cigar made it quite clear in an NLRB election on May 14 that they are eager to join UCAPAWA's Tobacco Division in its battle to raise standards in the cigar and other tobacco plants.

Only 80 workers voted for the AFL and the same number for "no union."

This election is seen as a thumping vote of confidence in UCAPAWA's Tobacco Workers' Organizing Committee which is building the union in all the big tobacco plants in the Philadelphia area. Already Consolidated Cigar and Siegel's in Camden and Zifferblatt in Philadelphia are under contract with UCAPAWA.

REPUDIATE AFL

Just a year ago at the Consolidated Cigar plant in Lancaster, AFL's Cigar Makers International Union won an election over UCAPAWA by a vote of 271 to 167. After a year of run-around under the AFL union, the workers have more than reversed their minds, stating by this vote in clear terms that they know their future lies in the ranks of UCAPAWA.

Progress of negotiations which will start immediately on the first UCAPAWA contract will be reported fully in later issues of UCAPAWA NEWS.

MEMBERS WORKED

Outstanding feature of the pre-election campaign was the work of the 35-member election campaign committee of Local 638, according to Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane who attended the big rally the night before election.

"Too much praise cannot be given to this committee of Consolidated workers which worked tirelessly for months to bring the true union picture to their fellow-workers," said Lane.

The committee consisted of: Andrew Dotterman, Chairman,

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Arbitrate Salinas Shed Wages; Expect 35 Elections, Contracts

By Charles Decker, International Representative

Salinas, Calif.—The "Salad Bowl of the Nation" is being bowled over by the powerful organizational drive of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers, Local 78, UCAPAWA-CIO. The latest feather in the cap of UCAPAWA, and the most recent demonstration to the workers that the organization really means business in the protection of the interests of the workers, was the brief submitted to Federal Arbitrator George Cheney by UCAPAWA representatives supporting the workers' demands for an adequate wage scale, time and one half after eight hours, and other conditions.

"DO JOB" AT HEARINGS

Much to the displeasure of the lettuce shippers in this area, UCAPAWA, led by President Donald Henderson, Vice-President Dixie Tiller, and International Representatives Robert MacKay, Wendell Phillips, and Charles Decker, "stole the show" from a local boss-dominated "workers' committee" in these arbitration hearings.

As a result of the effective work of the UCAPAWA representatives, the lettuce workers here are counting on a substantial wage increase and better conditions when the arbiter hands down his decision the latter part of this month.

This incident is only one of many which have occurred since UCAPAWA's Local 78 began its organizing drive just three and one half months ago, and which has resulted in the signing up of over 2,000 workers in that brief time.

80% NOW IN SALINAS

In Imperial Valley, in Yuma, in Phoenix, in Delano, California,

Turn to page 2

Unless heavy protest is registered in Congress swiftly, a shocking "soak the poor" tax bill will be passed.

Tell your Congressman NOW that you are AGAINST lowering income tax exemptions and FOR increasing taxes on big incomes.

Our CIO War Relief Drive Opens; Three Locals Already Pledge $$

Chicago.—Members of Local 58 in Detroit have voted unanimously to give an hour's pay a month to the CIO American and Allied War Relief Fund, according to a telegram to the International Office following the monthly membership meeting of all Local 58 divisions.

This is the third local to report to the International arrangements for regular contributions to our War Relief Fund. The other two locals are Local 80 in Camden, N. J., and Local 236 in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

1 HOUR'S PAY MONTHLY

In a letter to all Industrial locals early this month, Secretary

Turn to page 2

Convention Date Pushed Ahead

Chicago.—By unanimous vote of the International Executive Board, the date for the coming UCAPAWA convention has been pushed ahead from July to September or October.

This decision was made after considering the situation of the Alaska Cannery Local most of whose members are in Alaska in July. Since this is one of our oldest locals and a pillar of strength to the entire Union, the Board felt that it would be unfortunate to hold a convention at a time when they could not play their full part.

Postponement of the convention will, furthermore, allow the locals much valuable time in which to prepare for full representation at the convention.

BOARD TO MEET

Vote on changing the convention date was taken by mail. At the June meeting of the International Executive Board, final convention arrangements will be determined.

Locals which have resolutions or matters to bring before the June meeting of the Executive Board, should forward such communications to Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane before June 15.

FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT Leif Dahl sent this message to UCAPAWA members the day he went into the Army: "Build the Union, produce the foodstuffs, buy War Bonds, and as a National united team, we will come through, with the Axis powers only a miserable memory of barbarism." Dahl is a member of Local 80.

FIFTY MEMBERS of Local 116 in Vinton, Iowa have been locked out. They need help. Turn to page 3.

Strengthen Soup Pact

From Page 1

transfers from one department to another.

JOB TRANSFERS

8. Where an employee fails to make his base rate, due to being transferred to an operation with which he is not familiar, there shall be a period of three weeks before any change is made in his base rate.

9. A joint union-management committee of six to be set up to study and handle all Bedeaux grievances.

"The officers and members of Local 80 from the Campbell plant are to be congratulated on the manner in which they carried on these difficult negotiations," said Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane, who worked with the local on the contract.

"Without striking or in any way hampering production at this time of acute national emergency, the local has never-the-less made progress in improving conditions of Campbell Soup workers.

STRONG LOCAL

"Local 80 is a bulwark of strength in Campbell's Soup and in other plants where it has contracts; it offers solid support to UCAPAWA's program of organizing the unorganized; and last, but most important, Local 80 is 'set' to play an increasing part in our country's fight against the Axis powers," concluded Lane.

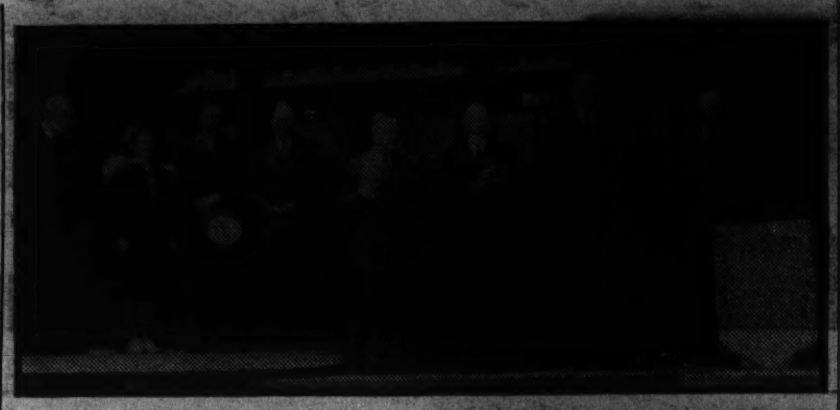
Some 4,000 people are employed at the Camden Campbell plant. The other plant of the company, in Chicago, is under contract with Local 194.

Check Your Facts

1. Who pays for the CIO?
2. What are the seven points in Roosevelt's anti-inflation program?
3. Have wages been "frozen"?
4. Which is the first local to report winning a Minute Man award?
5. Which is the first local voting regular contributions to the CIO American Allied and War Relief fund?

Answers on page 5

FORMER SHOP COMMITTEEMAN of Local 68, Daily Pickle, in Saginaw, Mich., Al Makl is now a member of Uncle Sam's official "committee" to put the Axis in its place. Paul Lapan was elected to take Makl's place on the shop committee, on the production front at home.



MINUTE MAN FLAG is received by Stella Kucharzyk and Joe Mech in behalf of the Libby Blue Island workers, Local 47. Those who took part in the presentation (above) are the chief of police, Kucharzyk, Mech, Mayor John M. Hart, Plant Manager Dillman, Co. Vice-Pres. E. E. Willkie, and E. G. Becker, chairman of the bond buying plan for Libby, McNeill and Libby.

100% Union Libby Plant Awarded Minute Man Flag at Big Ceremony

By William Bush, Press Agent

Blue Island, Ill.—The Minute Man flag now flies from the pole of the Libby McNeill and Libby plant, directly below a beautiful American flag.

The members of Local 47 are especially proud, because our plant is the first in this area to be presented the flag awarded by the United States Treasury for 100 percent cooperation in the Payroll Savings plan for buying war bonds. Some 450 people work in this plant, which is 100 percent union.

The flag was presented during an impressive ceremony which all employees attended out in front of the main office. The Blue Island Post of the American Legion took part in the ceremony.

MAYOR PROUD

Mr. Robert Dilhman, manager of the plant, thanked the employees for their whole-hearted support of the bond plan. Mr. E. G. Becker, chairman of the War Savings Bond plan for all Libby plants announced that Libby employees have purchased approximately one-half million dollars worth of bonds already.

Mayor John Hart spoke with pride of the work of this plant, which was also the largest donor to the Red Cross drive in our community.

TO SAVE DEMOCRACY

Mr. E. E. Willkie, Vice-Pres. of Libby who presented the flag said that this is an example which the whole country must follow in order to preserve democracy. The flag was presented to Brother Joseph Mech and Sister Stella Kucharzyk, representing the employees.

After the flag was hoisted to its place at the top of the building, the meeting closed with group singing of the National Anthem.

Editor's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Press agents for the most part send in very little news on resolutions passed by the locals on important public questions. This is one angle which we must improve in the NEWS.

Certainly a number of locals must have taken a stand on opening a Second Front against the Axis, and on a fair tax program, in support of Roosevelt's suggestion that all income over $25,000 go into taxes, to mention only two examples.

Yet the NEWS has had practically no reports of this nature.

In sending in snapshots, please send along the negatives as well as the prints. From these we can have large prints made which in turn can be touched up so the picture will come out better in the paper. Of course, if the picture you send is a large print taken by a professional photographer, it is not necessary to send the negative.

All pictures and negatives will be returned, if the sender so requests.

Remember: We no longer set any definite deadline for material for each issue, since this did not seem to serve any useful purpose. Events should be reported promptly, as they occur.

In general, material to make the next issue, should be sent within three days of the time you receive your copy of the NEWS.

Fraternally yours,
Connie Anderson

Salinas Drive Booms

From Page 1

and, now, in Salinas, the organizational staff, aided by the unceasing efforts of a nucleus of militant rank and filers, has been increasingly successful in helping the "fruit tramps" organize themselves into a democratic rank and file union.

This organization has already proven itself able to meet the lettuce shippers on even ground and many gains for the workers have been won. Eighty percent of the membership is now in Salinas and is actively engaged in "spreading the CIO gospel" to the remaining half of the workers in the industry who, as yet, are not members of the union.

With new members pouring into the office every day, Local 78 is looking forward to completing organization of the entire lettuce industry, winning NLRB elections in the 35 sheds in Salinas in the near future, and getting the industry under CIO contract before this lettuce harvesting season comes to a close next fall.

UCAPAWA Gets Behind War Relief

From Page 1

Treasurer Harold J. Lane explained the CIO's War Relief Fund, urging all locals to take part.

"The National CIO Committee for American and Allied War Relief has launched a sustained program for the collection of funds through a pledge of one hour's pay per month from each member of the CIO," Lane explained.

"The collection of war relief funds through this Committee will eliminate the duplicating appeals from 200 different relief agencies to the members of CIO unions and insure an efficient collection and distribution with small over-head costs.

LEAST WE CAN DO

"Many thousands of our brothers are in the Armed Forces, and as the War advances will greatly need and appreciate the assistance rendered them . . .One hour's pay per month is a mere pittance as compared to the sacrifices our brothers are making.

"It is going to take more than ideals and promises and flowery speeches," continued Lane, "to win this fight. It is going to take the blood of our brothers in the Armed Service, and both physical and financial sacrifices on the part of our people on the home front."

MEMBERS SIGN PLEDGE

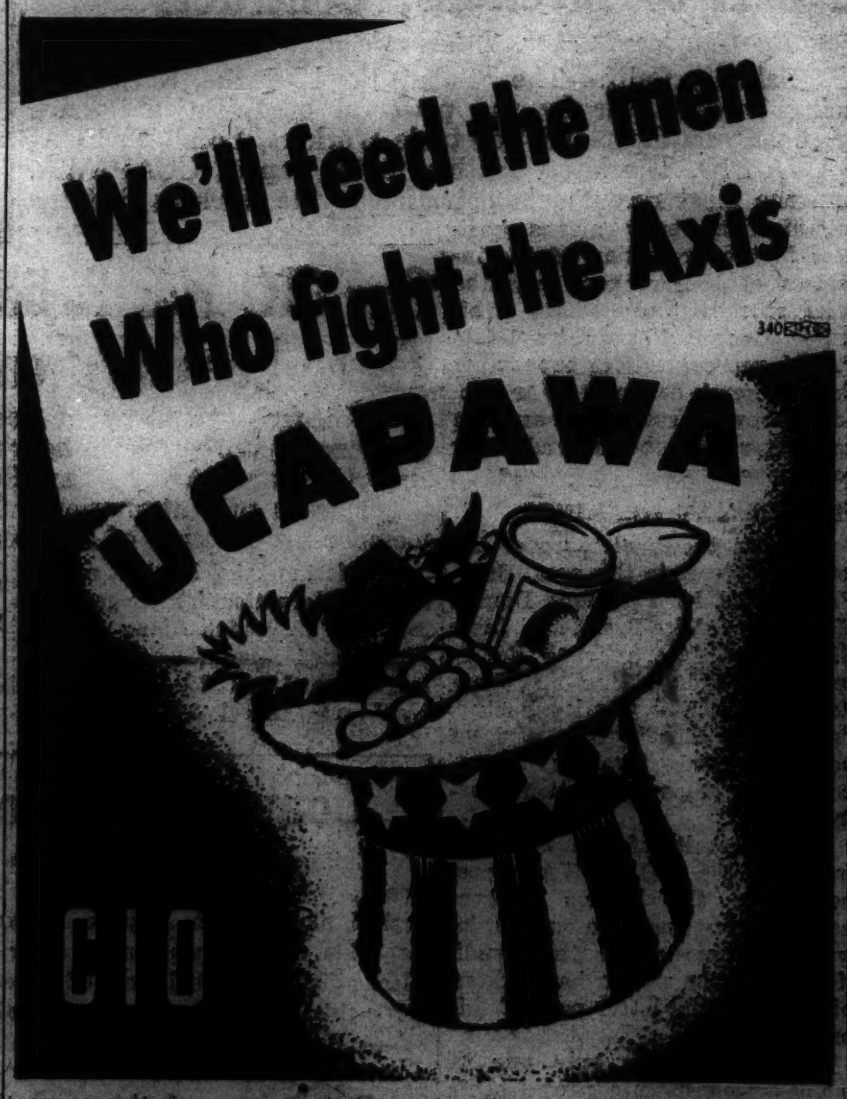
In his letter to the locals, Lane gave full directions on getting the authorizations signed by members for either a pay check deduction by the company, or for payment to the local union direct.

Once a month each local is asked to forward to the International Office the money collected, in the form of a check (or money order) made out to CIO Allied War Relief. These checks will be forwarded the 15th of each month to the CIO Committee, as UCAPAWA's contribution to the fund.

UCAPAWA WILL RALLY

Lane urged the locals to see that UCAPAWA does an outstanding job on this, to maintain our tradition of being in the forefront of the fight of workers for a better life.

Employees of the International Union are also pledging contributions to the CIO fund.



PLASTERED ON WINDSHIELDS, in front windows at home and in the shops by UCAPAWA members, these red white and blue stickers are letting the world know that we are heart and soul out to lick fascism. Quantities of this and of another sticker which says "We Won't Let Them Down" have been sent to each local. Additional stickers may be obtained by the locals simply by sending a request to the International Office.

Wisconsin Milk Local Doing A-1 Organizing Job

Bloomer, Wisconsin.—The Organizational Committee recently set up by local 24 "is really going to town," according to James De Witt, Int. Rep.

At Armour and Co. (milk condensery), members are 100 percent in good standing and the campaign for 100 percent membership is bringing results.

The committee, which has signed up a majority of the 40 milk haulers, is asking that local 24 be recognized as the bargaining agency for this group.

GRAIN OUTFIT NEXT

At Farmers Store and Feed Co., where the union is reaching the majority mark, recognition will soon be sought. This concern has 22 stores in Wisconsin. The plant at Eau Claire is being canvassed by local 175 with a view to organizing it.

Plans are being made to start organization at the Bloomer Farm Products Co. which operates a large cannery and feed mill.

Murray Pledges Aid To Russian Relief

New York—CIO support for Russian War Relief was expressed by Pres. Philip Murray this week in accepting an invitation to become a member of the Board of Directors and in pledging CIO aid to the $6,000,000 drive now under way.

"No one can fail to admire the heroism of the Russian army and people in repelling Nazi barbarism, "Murray said in his acceptance wire.

"The five million men and women of the CIO are determined to help their valiant allies in every practical way by fighting, working, giving. I know they join me in wishing the Russian War Relief drive every possible success and in extending the cooperation and hearty support of labor."

Murray was joined by Pres. William Green of the AFL and Pres. A. F. Whitney of the Railroad Trainmen.

IMPERIAL VALLEY SHED WORKERS who are organizing the tomato, cantelope and carrot "deals." At the left are C. A. "Slim" Johnson, Katie Cronkhite and Herschel Crow, who, together with Jack Swartz and Int. Rep. Paul Gardner were the elected committee which negotiated a 2c per crate raise for tomato packing. Dave Forbes (middle) has stuck by UCAPAWA since the very beginning, in 1937, and today is a leader in Yuma, Delano and Imperial Valley. At the right is Bernice Johnson with Ed Nelson, a business man who owns an auto court. Nelson's latest act of friendship was to build an air cooler for the union hall, donating the material and the motor to Local 78. He refused to have his picture taken unless he could be shown holding a copy of our UCAPAWA News.

Lock-Out Hampers War; 50 Workers Need Aid

By Jack Fox, International Representative

Vinton, Iowa.—Some 50 workers have been locked-out by the Vinton Produce Co. in a campaign against UCAPAWA in this Iowa county which is considered the most anti-labor county in the state.

President Donald Henderson states that "the local did well to write the company promptly that ill-will must stop and grievances be settled, so that production may go ahead full speed in this National emergency.

NEED COOPERATION

"UCAPAWA is doing everything possible to get this company to deal with the workers fairly, so that production will go ahead at this time when food is so important to win the war."

The workers desperately need financial assistance and the encouragement of other union people, and will appreciate the help of other UCAPAWA locals and members. Local President Dorothy Knaack points out that merchants are dunning them and they are being black-balled all over town.

CO. PROVOKED TROUBLE

Culminating a series of anti-union activities by the Vinton Produce Co. which precipitated the strike, the workers voted to return to work, but were refused their jobs.

The situation was brought about by the constant coercion, firing and insulting of the workers who had joined local 116. Wages run from 30 to 37½ cents an hour. Often times workers do not get even a full week of work. Working conditions are miserable.

The union was refused recognition by the company after having signed up a majority in the plant.

WORKERS WON'T QUIT CIO

The locked-out workers are resolved to see this thing through. In the words of Pat Paterson, "I will eat grass first before I let the CIO down."

Each day the workers distribute a bulletin among the townspeople explaining the terror of the Company, the un-American vigilante action of the supposed "deputies," and giving the true facts in the case.

Four of the workers of the Hybrid Corn Co., (which is under contract with local 116) were thrown into jail. Bonding efforts to bail them out have been blocked by the antagonism of the powers-that-be here.

WOMEN BEATEN UP

Three union women who were beaten, are under medical care. The beatings were instigated by the Greater Vinton Club, a self-styled labor union busting agency, whose actions and political powers are at the back of the entire trouble.

Vinton Produce workers say "we are proud of the responsibility which has been placed upon us to make this county a labor county. We will not quit on the job."

SEND FUNDS

Funds for the locked-out workers should be sent to Dorothy Knaack, President, Local 116 Produce division, UCAPAWA-CIO, 405 West 2nd St., Vinton, Iowa.

Visiting Member Tells of Lies In Vinton Paper

Chicago.—An idea of the gang-up against the workers of Vinton Produce in Vinton, Iowa is given in a letter written to UCAPAWA NEWS by Mrs. Alice Inman, Rec. Secy. of local 155 in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

QUIET, PEACEFUL CROWD

The letter, written before the present trouble broke out in Vinton, tells of going over there to a meeting while the plant was being organized.

"A very nice crowd attended in a very quiet and peaceful manner to discuss their difficulties from all angles," writes Sister Inman.

Roy Nicholson, Pres. of local 155, Myrtle Nicholson, Fin. Secy., trustee Ervie Belville and James Inman were also over at the meeting.

VICIOUS STORY IN PAPER

"Just before we were ready to leave Vinton," continues Sister Inman, "the evening Vinton paper was delivered fresh from the press, and I must say I have never read a more vicious, lying, labor hating article than was published in that paper concerning the union meeting.

CLUBS DON'T KILL CIO

"But if it was published with the intention of intmidating the workers trying to organize, or the organizations that stand behind them, then I should say that its unworthy purpose was undoubtedly lost, for it only served to strengthen the determination of the workers there to demand and to get the right and respect due them, and to show the City Clubs that CIO cannot be clubbed down."

Cannery Field Pact Calls for Prod. Comm.

Oskaloosa, Iowa.—Signing of the new union shop, check-off agreement by Local 155 with the Marshall Canning Co. is a victory both for conditions of work in the cannery and fields owned by the company, and for furthering smooth production in the Food for Victory Drive.

A declaration in favor of joint production committees is written into the contract, which says that "both the union and the company agree to the necessity and urgency of all out production in the war effort . . . The company agrees to work in close harmony with the union on all efforts to increase production and to discuss this matter with any union committee duly authorized to do so."

Furthermore, the contract provides for joint efforts to stabilize the labor supply.

WAGES UP 5-10 CENTS

Wage increases of five cents an hour, up to 10 cents on some jobs were granted.

The contract provides for a 45c an hour base for the hourly male workers with the exception of special workers who shall receive 50c, and all female workers shall receive 40c. Picking is to be done at the rate of seven cents per box and a one cent bouns per box at the end of the season. Peelers are to receive between nine and 10 cents per bucket with a guarantee of 35c per hour should the run of tomatoes make piece wages difficult.

STEWARD SYSTEM

Good grievance procedure and seniority guarantees with a 50-50 relationship between the factory and the field jobs, provide solid protection for the workers.

The contract was signed in behalf of the Union by Jack Fox, Int. Rep.; Roy Nicholson, Local 155, Pres.; Myrtle Nicholson, Fin. Sec.; Robert Stephen, Steward; Alice Inman, Rec. Secy.; and Alfred Six, Vice-Pres.

PUBLISHED IN PAPER

In a letter which was printed in the Oskaloosa Daily Herald, Fin. Sec. Myrtle Nicholson made the terms of the contract public, pointing out that "the union is resolved to see to it that maximum production is secured," jointly with the company, and forecasting a prosperous season in Oskaloosa, with no interruption to production, and a good performance in the interests of Food for Victory.

Proud of Vinton Members

"We are proud of the job you people are doing to build your union," Pres. Henderson wired Dorothy Knaack, Pres. of the Produce Division of Local 116 in Vinton, Iowa, whose members are now locked-out.

"You are carrying the banner high for UCAPAWA and for American democracy," Henderson told the local. "Hope for an early settlement of your just grievances and for full production in the plant in this National Emergency. We have released your story to the labor press."

FDR Frees Browder To Promote Unity

Washington.—President Roosevelt in freeing Earl Browder, Secretary of the Communist Party, said that he hoped this action will "have a tendency to promote national unity . . ."

Browder stated that "naturally I am pleased at the President's action, and the fact that it enables me to take my place in the great war effort.

"I hope that everyone who is interested will make it the occasion, as I will, to intensify every effort to weld unbreakable national unity under the Commander-in-chief for victory in this war."

EXPERIENCED FOOD WORKERS ARE OUT OF WORK because dates can no longer reach this country. These 156 members of Local 207 gathered in front of the famous Hills Bros. plant in Brooklyn, N. Y., hope that the Company will succeed in getting government orders for other kinds of packaged foods so that they will be able to take part in the Food for Victory program. The "Dromedary" dates which they formerly prepared came originally from Iraq, but when the Axis powers hurled the world into war, this trade was cut off; the supply of dates already on hand is now exhausted.

Vitamins For Victory

By Ben Yomen

FIGHT "SOAK THE POOR" TAXES

Taxes being proposed in Congress would cut deep into wages. If the House Ways and Means Committee bill should be enacted into law, this would be a serious set-back to the National war effort; it would be a serious set-back to labor which is battling on all fronts for living standards that will enable healthy, vigorous workers to produce all-out in our death struggle with the Axis.

The tax issue is simply whether needed tax money will come from high war profits, or whether, in order to spare war profits, the poorest in the land are to be deprived of the barest necessities of life. The proposed tax bill would "soak the poor."

Labor has defeated attacks on the 40-hour week, and efforts to freeze wages. This latest threat, being engineered by the same anti-labor reactionaries, can also be defeated if labor throws its back into the job.

The CIO nationally has appeared before committees in Washington, and in every other way in its power is fighting for a fair tax program. But UCAPAWA members know that all these efforts are only partly effective unless members of CIO unions throughout the country back up the campaign by bombarding their own Congressmen with demands for a democratic tax law.

At the time of writing, the House Ways and Means Committee has reported to the House a tax bill which:

1. Fails to incorporate the President's suggestion that all income over $25,000 should go to taxes.

2. Fails to increase taxes on corporation profits adequately.

3. Lowers income tax exemptions so that single persons making only $11 a week, and married persons with $25 a week or more would have to pay.

4. Allows a gap of $1,500,000,000 in the amount to be raised, leaving the door open to pushing through a sales tax, which is the most vicious form of taxation on low income people.

Under a sales tax, a few pennies must be paid on every purchase, even on a loaf of bread. For years, the sales tax has been the darling of the labor-hating National Association of Manufacturers which figures that people don't "notice" such taxes much. Because large sums of money can be raised by a sales tax, rich people skin out from paying heavy taxes on incomes and profits.

Every UCAPAWA local is urged to organize at once a campaign of letters and post cards from the members and their friends urging their representatives in Congress to tax away all income over $25,000, to increase taxation on profits, to avoid lowering tax exemption limits below those now in effect, and, above all, to fight sales taxes tooth and nail.

UCAPAWA NEWS

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VOL. II.—NO. 17 MAY 28, 1942

FACING OUR PROBLEMS

By
DONALD HENDERSON, *General President*

WAGE INCREASES NEEDED

Some employers and many reactionary anti-administration newspapers are trying to "freeze" wages at their present levels for everybody.

Let me summarize for all our members, officers, and organizers the official position of UCAPAWA with respect to wage freezing, wage adjustments and the President's 7 point program on wage increases.

1) We are absolutely opposed to any freezing of wages at present levels. We support the President's program of wage adjustments. Such adjustments should take into account changes in cost of living and compensation for the terrific intensification of the rate of production which workers are putting forth in order to win the War.

2) Substantial wage increases are in order, however, for all substandard groups of workers. Certainly we cannot win the War with half starved workers or with workers whose standard of living is so low as to undermine their health, morale, and efficiency.

Certainly any wage less than 60c an hour is substandard and requires revision upwards. This increase upwards in substandard scales should not only offset the increased cost of living, but should raise the wage to a health and decency level.

Cotton wage workers and sharecroppers should certainly get at least a 30c an hour minimum which they are now demanding. This measure is as necessary to win the War as any production measure.

Certainly cotton seed oil workers, or cotton compress workers, or cannery workers, or tobacco workers, or any other type of food processing workers who are now receiving less than 60c an hour have a patriotic duty to insist that their wages be raised to a health and decency level.

3) Adjustment of wages for higher wage scale groups and substantial wage increases for substandard groups does not mean, however, that we throw overboard our no-strike policy. On the contrary, every effort must be made to negotiate such wage increases and adjustments through the existing governmental machinery of conciliation and arbitration.

Substandard groups will receive sympathetic attention by government agencies to bring their wages to a level of decency and health.

Leon Henderson expresses the attitude of the Administration and the Federal Government in his testimony before a closed session before the House Ways and Means Committee on May 11th.

"Substandard groups cannot be condemned to a continuation of substandard existence at a time when the country's welfare demands that every citizen's health and productive capacity be maintained and improved," Henderson declared.

Those employers and those industries who are attempting to use the present national war emergency to continue paying wages less than the health and decency level are blocking the war program, are interfering with production and are breaking down morale,—and are in effect, playing the game of Hitler's disruptionists.

The Unions in fighting for a health and decency wage are carrying out part of the war against the fascists, and are carrying out a policy to achieve maximum production and help win the War.

Lancaster Landslide

From page 1

Mary Duschl, Ida Heiney, Edith Lonkoski, Verna Nuss, Teresa Mayer, Ellen Mowrer, Rhoda Myers, (Elva Haefner, alternate), Arvilla Mathews, Emma Chandler Kitty Nuss, Eva Webb, Blanche Williams, Myrtle Shelly, Claire Becker, Anna Sheaffer, Ella Bleecher, Mary Long, Ida Beamsderfer, Mim Yeager, Floss Yeager, Sarah Petery, Irene Myers, Catherine Watson, Barbara Nichol, Ethel Hull, Sadie Quinn, Pauline Espenshade, Chas. Beamsderfer, Martha Kolb, Sue Tammany, Marthat Quino, Bell Seiple, Mame Anderson, Geo. Dueing.

WELCOME UNITED LOCAL

Besides Lane, other UCAPAWA leaders greeted the Consolidated workers at their pre-election rally, including Armando Ramirez, International Vice-President and veteran cigar worker and organizer, and John Tisa, chairman of the Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee.

Tobacco locals which want to welcome this united, victorious local to UCAPAWA should address Mrs. Ida M. Heiney, Pres. Local 638, UCAPAWA, 603 E. Madison St., Lancaster, Pa.

Dedicate Flags In Moving Plant Ceremony

By Kathryn Bennet, Press Agent

Detroit.—The members of local 281 at Webster Cigar are proud of the dedication of the American Flag which took place early in May at the plant at one o'clock.

Speakers were the Honorable past-Commander of the American Legion Post, Eugene Van Entwerp, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hargrave, past-President of the Legion Post.

Others who took part in the program were the President of local 281, Martha Drapinski, Mrs. Anna Karabunis, Rose Tar, Sophie Hallman, W. J. Glen and Carl Jensen.

BLUE STAR FOR SONS

Each employee who has a son serving in the war was given a Blue Star emblem, tied with Red White and Blue, to be hung in the window at home.

The five larger flags were presented by Anna Karabunis to W. J. Glen and Carl Jensen, to be placed in each department.

As one of the larger flags was hung up, the employees saluted and pledged allegiance to the flag.

THE LAND WE LOVE

The ceremony was closed with the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" which left many shedding a tear and with this thought in mind:

Here's to the land we love,
Here's to the Flag she flies.
Here's to her sons, the best on earth,
Here's to her smiling skies.

Editor's Note: The local is also buying a $500 defense bond. It is a 100 percent membership local which is now negotiating a new contract. As Agnes Bloom says, "you should see the spirit in this local."

Gets Day Job, Thanks to Union

Lima, O.—Some three weeks ago, Evelyn Marks, Vice-President and Press Agent of Local 69, Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert, got a day job, which she had wanted for three years.

"I want to thank our union for this," says Sister Marks. "Without the union, seniority means nothing to this company."

LETTERS FROM HOME mean more to the boys in the Armed Services than anything else. Every UCAPAWA member in uniform should hear from his fellow unionists at least once a week. A few lines written at lunch hour by the men and women in his department will do the trick. The picture is by Pvt. Max P. Williams of Camp Lee.

Detroit Tax Board Forces D-W-G To Come Across with $11,500

Editor's Note: Last issue we reprinted the story from a Detroit paper telling how the city tax authorities had found undeclared property in the form of tobacco, in possession of Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert there. This is the sequel to the story, according to the Detroit Free Press, May 7:

The Detroit common council vindicated Detroit Street Railway Commissioner Samuel T. Gilbert of tax evasion **but, nevertheless, decided his tobacco firm must pay personal property tax on $549,690 instead of on $167,400 as it reported.**

GILBERT WASN'T TOLD!

The ruling was handed down by the council sitting as a board of tax review and was made after Gilbert delievered a plea in which he said:

"What I want is vindication on the charge that I have attempted to avoid a just tax. I want vindication from the charge that I gave the tax assessors misleading information in the attempt to chisel a few lousy dollars from the city."

The difference in tax between the two assessments is approximately $11,500.

"I was judged without a hearing," Gilbert told the council. "This was personal prosecution.

"The board of assessors sprung this case in the newspapers instead of notifying me."

TOBACCO IN WAREHOUSES

The new assessment is based on the value of tobacco which the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Corporation has in warehouses in the city. Gilbert is president of the firm and it was his contention that $270,000 of the tobacco, which was from Puerto Rico, should not be taxed because it was imported and that $130,000 in Connecticut was exempt because its bales were not opened and were not stored on firm property.

UCAPAWA Poet Gives Big OK To 'We're the People'

Chicago.—UCAPAWA members would enjoy the stories and poems in **We're the People**, tremendously, according to Jennie Stiver, Press Agent of Local 55, whose own poems and stories appear frequently in UCAPAWA NEWS.

Jennie Stiver

"I think **We're the People** should be read by all union people," says Stiver. "It answers the questions that so many folks would like to know about unions. The poem, **Little Boy Blue, 1941,** is worth the price of the book. This book should start people thinking; I am sure I did not know many things until I read this book."

We're the People is a collection of the newspaper columns and poems of Irene Paull (Calamity Jane), feature writer for Midwest Labor, organ of the CIO unions in Minnesota.

WORKERS' STRUGGLES

The columns record the struggles of the lumberjacks, sawmill workers, miners, sailors, steel workers, white collar and Negro workers of Minnesota, Upper Michigan and Wisconsin. The most interesting feature of the collection is the thirty pages of workers' poems contributed to Midwest Labor by the lumberjacks, sailors and steel workers themselves.

The book sells at 50c and can be ordered by writing Midwest Labor, 24 East Superior St., Duluth, Minnesota. The NEWS will be glad to print comments by other UCAPAWA members who read **We're the People.**

CHECK YOUR FACTS

ANSWERS

(Questions are on page 2)

1. The CIO is supported by per capita tax payments from the 41 affiliated International Unions of which UCAPAWA is one. Five cents is paid per member per month. That means that out of the 50 cents per member sent to UCAPAWA each month by the locals, five cents is sent on to the CIO. It is this CIO per capita tax which John L. Lewis United Mine Workers has refused to pay for over two months.

2. In an effort to stop rising prices, Pres. Roosevelt proposed a seven point program as follows: price freezing; rationing of scarce goods; heavy taxation of profits and big incomes; keeping farm prices at parity; increasing purchases of War Bonds; and stabilizing of wages. The taxation of profits and big incomes especially has met serious opposition. Roosevelt's suggestion that all incomes over $25,000 be taxed away has caused the rich to get into action to prevent any such law.

3. Wages have not been "frozen" and Roosevelt in his seven point program did not make such a suggestion. Wage questions were specifically left up to War Labor Board so that they would be free to adjust low and "inequitable" wages.

Workers who now have substandard incomes obviously cannot pull their full feight in winning the war. This Roosevelt has recognized, much to the anger of reactionaries who still are more interested in the war against labor than they are in the war against the Axis.

4. Local 47 in Blue Island, Ill., is the first local to report winning of a Minute Man flag which is given by the U. S. Treasury Dept. to any plant which has achieved 100 percent in the payroll deduction plan for buying War Bonds.

5. First local to report starting regular contribution by the members of one hour's pay per month to the CIO American and Allied War Relief Fund is Local 80 in Camden, N. J.

American Tobacco:

Pulls New Wage Alibi Out of Hat

Trenton, N. J.—Broadcasting over the public address systems in the plants of the American Tobacco Co., company officials in the persons of Mr. Mandel and Mr. Albert Gold tried to convince the girls that the company cannot afford a raise at this time.

Local 95 which in cooperation with the Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee is building a union in these plants, answered these talks in a special bulletin.

TALK "WAGE FREEZING"

New angle in the old company wheeze was an effort to use Roosevelt's 7-point program as a reason to deny wage increases. In answer to this the union Bulletin pointed out that:

"The immediate program of President Roosevelt on wages in industry, has nothing at all to do with the wages paid to the workers of the Trenton American Tobacco plants.

FDR FOR LIVING WAGE

"In most cases wages here are far below what they should be in order to meet the high cost of living. The President's announced policy is to bring wages into line with the cost of living all over the United States. The great fear of our Government is that prices will skyrocket while wages remain at the same level . . ."

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1942

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF ORGANIZED LABOR:

This month a new campaign for the sale of War Bonds and Savings Stamps is under way throughout the Nation. It is the War Bond Quota Campaign.

It is urgently necessary that you double the rate at which you are now buying War Bonds and Stamps. This will mean the sale direct to individual Americans of War Bonds and Stamps to the amount of not less than one billion dollars every month.

One billion dollars a month is the National quota. It is equal to one-tenth the combined incomes of all Americans.

This money is needed to buy the tools of war for your fighting forces. It will not pay for all of them. Our war expenditures now are at the rate of about FOUR BILLIONS a month, and they are growing daily. But a billion dollars a month direct from the people will make all-out production possible. Without it we cannot do our best; without it we cannot put forth our full effort.

It is desperately needed for another reason. We can't fight a war and at the same time live and spend as usual. There are not enough goods to go around — the things we buy with money. If we go on spending at the 1941 scale, we'll be robbing the fighting man to add to our own comfort or pleasure. We'll be driving up the cost of living for all of us. We'll be imposing dire hardships on our neighbors.

What is asked of you is ten per cent of your earnings — a tithe for Liberty. It is not a tax; it is not even a contribution; it is a loan at interest, for your use and protection later.

Your Government asks you to cut down your expenditures, TO SAVE — your boys on the firing line and in the training camps, through your Government, ask you to save so that they may have what they need to win YOUR WAR for you — America asks you to save; to SAVE TO WIN THE WAR; to buy War Bonds and Stamps up to not less than ten per cent of your income.

Is Liberty worth it? Is Democracy worth it? Is America worth it? I think I know your answer.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

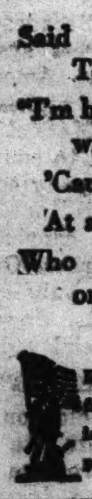
Sincerely,

H Morgenthau Jr

ADDRESSING UNION MEN AND WOMEN, Uncle Sam's Treasurer asks our full support of the War Savings plan, under which 10 percent of earnings will be used to buy War Bonds. Leaders of 11,250,000 organized workers, including CIO Pres. Murray, have pledged support to this plan.

LIBERTY LIMERICKS

Said a cowboy named
Texas LaGrange,
"I'm buyin' these Stamps
with my change,
'Cause each one's a slap
At a Nazi or Jap
Who threatens our home
on the range!"



Rope and tie the enemies of freedom by buying U. S. Savings Bonds. Get one every pay day.

Jersey Local Gives "In Fact" To All Stewards

Chicago.—Low-down on what goes on in high places, particularly in anti-labor quarters, is to be found in the weekly news sheet In Fact, according to Local 80 in Camden, N. J. This information is so interesting and valuable to labor people that Local 80 has bought subscriptions at 50 cents per year for all Shop Stewards in the big Campbell's Soup and the other Local 80 plants.

The Shop Stewards, in turn, tell the members in their departments how they can get 52 issues per year of solid gold facts at the special trade union rate.

GET SAMPLES FROM NEWS

Last autumn UCAPAWA'S Publicity and Education Department sent sample copies of In Fact to all locals, recommending that each undertake to push the circulation of this news sheet among the membership.

Up-to-date sample copies of In Fact may be obtained from UCAPAWA NEWS.

Notes from LOCALS

1 Superior Products Division of local 1 in Chicago has won a two cents cost of living wage increase, retroactive to April 1. At the time the contract was signed last November, the Company agreed to further increase wages in proportion to any future rise in the cost of living, according to Int. Rep. John Sopocy. Increases of from seven to 18 cents were gained when the contract was signed.

19 Jacob Clady, president of the Jackson plant Buckeye unit of local 19 in Memphis, Tenn. represented the local at the recent Negro Youth Congress held at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama; since then he has been making the various division meetings, giving a good report of his trip, according to Int. Rep. Bob Sanford.

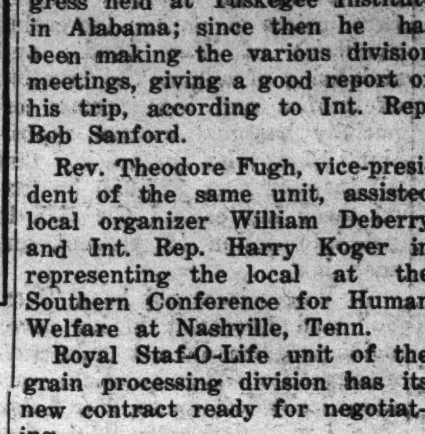
Rev. Theodore Fugh, vice-president of the same unit, assisted local organizer William Deberry and Int. Rep. Harry Koger in representing the local at the Southern Conference for Human Welfare at Nashville, Tenn.

Royal Staf-O-Life unit of the grain processing division has its new contract ready for negotiating.

Bro. Edward Ray, who served as president of local 19 after local 4 amalgamated with it, has resigned his office and taken a withdrawal card. He is now working at the Fisher Aircraft plant, helping to make airplane bodies.

Tri-State Compress unit is determined that every man shall live up to his union obligation. Members will not tolerate those who try to ride on another man's dollar, by not paying dues. That is why they had three men dismissed from the plant recently.

Bro. McKinley Hickman, president of the unit, is proud of the splendid cooperation and solidarity his officers and members have shown during the current negotiations. Bro. Hickman is also chairman of the officers' and stewards' class, which meets twice a month.



47 Libby, McNeill and Libby local 47 in Blue Island, Ill. has announced a big dance for May 23. After each membership meeting this local stages a social, with a half barrel of beer donated by the local, and accordion music for dancing. Should Local 47 be dubbed "the most sociable local in UCAPAWA"?

55 Early in May, Press Agent Jennie Stiver reported that the membership meeting of Local 55, P. Lorillard, in Middletown, O. was well attended, with new members still coming in.

The membership voted for only two meetings a month during the Summer, with fines to be placed on members who do not attend at least once a month.

Arrangements were made for the committee and Int. Rep. Ed Nix to go to the Company about several violations of the new contract.

58 Another member of local 58 in Detroit, Ralph Graham of the J. J. Gielow Division, is serving as an air raid warden.

69 Sympathy of Local 69 in Lima, O., is extended to the family and friends of Sister Janella Krause who has passed away. This good union member will be very much missed. The local charter was draped at the May Mass Meeting.

Kate Souze has been elected Cor. Sec'y of the Allen County Council, and Ray Lehew, Door Guard.

Delegates to the UCAPAWA convention will be Elizabeth Tarbutton, Evelyn Marks and Velma Barry.

Tickets for the First Anniversary Party were made on the new mimeograph machine, in order to keep expenses low so that good money will be raised for sending delegates to the convention. A door prize, big birthday cake and three hams were donated by local merchants.

75 Regular "volunteer organizer" cards are issued to members of local 75 in Houston who help with the organizing work there. Tommie Snow reports that "we need plenty of help" to contact the unorganized compress workers. Four compresses have been recently brought under contract by UCAPAWA.

78 Rumor has it that members of Local 78, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers, turned out with their friends to a dance in the Salinas, Calif., Armory, and kicked up their heels to the music of a 12-piece band.

This is the biggest social event run by Local 78 since the organizing drive started several months ago in the packing sheds in Imperial, Salt River, Salinas and other valleys. In Salinas, where some 3,000 work, the "deal" (season) has only recently opened.

281 Members of Webster Cigar local 281 in Detroit who went together to donate blood to the Red Cross are: Martha Drapinski, Ruth Elek, Rose Legannie, Agnes Bloom, Rose Polmarski, Sophie Kuzma, Helen Romanbio, Stella Sadowski, Jean Wiles, Stanley Woronski, Rose Rene, Elizabeth Dwbs, John Mangano, Mrs. Mangano, Eleanor Polaski, Monica Franaites, Mrs. Reed Jeanne, Anna Zelinski, Casie Jaklomski, Anestasio Lazmann, Helen Broblanski, Agnes Denis and Pauline Gutowski.

"This is nothing," said Sister Bloom, "compared to what our Boys are doing at the front lines."

A HEARTY HANDSHAKE from Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane tells Merwin Abrams (right) that UCAPAWA will miss him and wishes him God-speed as he goes into the Army. Abrams, who ran UCAPAWA's Supply Dept., is well-known for the snappy leaflets which he turned out. We hope the Army will allow Merv to take a mimeograph machine with him to the front-line, to turn off a few opinions of the Axis powers on the spot! That would help Win the War!

DOPE ON COST OF LIVING

Success of the President's anti-inflation program would mean that living costs would stop rising. However, until costs become steady, we shall continue to print the official government cost of living figures, month by month.

These are the figures which a number of our locals use in negotiating cost of living wage increases.

The U. S. Dept. of Labor reports that cost of living rose 1.2 percent between mid-February and mid-March, as widespread price advances were reported in retail stores throughout the country.

By the middle of March, families of wage earners and lower-salaried workers would have to spend $1.16 to buy the same things for which they spent $1.00 before the outbreak of the war in August, 1939. This means that since that time, cost of living had risen 16 percent.

Regardless of changes in cost of living, total annual wages for most workers are much too low.

As a rough test of this we print the minimum annual cost of living as of Dec. 15, 1941. This is what the government calls "Estimated Cost of Living for a 4-Person Manual Worker's Family at Maintenance Level." It is an extremely low figure which does not provide an adequate American standard of living. It is the level below which, according to the government, an American family should under no circumstances fall.

	Average of All Large Cities	Chicago	Cleveland	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Los Angeles	Memphis	Milwaukee	Minneapolis	New Orleans	New York	Philadelphia	Richmond	San Francisco
Mar. 15, 1942	114.3	113.7	117.0	113.2	117.1	115.3	117.2	116.5	114.8	112.7	114.3	117.6	112.0	112.8	113.4	115.7
Feb. 15, 1942	112.9	112.4	115.2	111.8	115.4	114.0	—.—	114.5	—.—	—.—	112.7	—.—	111.0	111.2	—.—	114.2
Jan. 15, 1942	112.0	112.0	114.7	111.3	114.5	112.5	—.—	113.5	—.—	—.—	111.9	—.—	110.3	110.6	—.—	113.9
Dec. 15, 1941	110.5	110.6	113.3	109.4	112.7	111.4	113.3	112.3	111.1	109.4	110.7	113.5	108.7	108.8	110.1	111.3
Nov. 15, 1941	110.2	111.0	112.9	109.7	112.5	111.2	—.—	111.1	—.—	—.—	110.7	—.—	108.7	108.3	—.—	110.6
Oct. 15, 1941	109.3	110.2	111.7	108.3	111.8	110.1	—.—	109.8	—.—	—.—	110.1	—.—	108.0	108.0	—.—	109.4
Sept. 15, 1941	108.1	109.5	110.9	106.0	109.6	107.9	109.7	108.1	108.3	106.8	109.0	110.9	106.8	106.7	107.4	107.8
Aug. 15, 1941	106.2	106.8	109.0	104.9	107.5	105.8	—.—	106.6	—.—	—.—	107.3	—.—	105.5	104.7	—.—	106.3
July 15, 1941	105.3	106.1	107.1	103.9	107.1	105.0	—.—	105.7	—.—	—.—	106.3	—.—	104.8	103.7	—.—	105.7
June 15, 1941	104.6	104.8	106.2	102.9	106.4	104.0	105.6	105.6	103.5	103.6	105.6	105.6	104.5	103.3	103.0	105.4
May 15, 1941	102.9	103.2	104.3	101.6	103.5	103.5	—.—	104.4	—.—	—.—	103.9	—.—	102.6	101.7	—.—	104.2
April 15, 1941	102.2	102.5	103.6	101.1	103.4	103.2	—.—	103.2	—.—	—.—	102.7	—.—	102.3	100.5	—.—	103.5
March 15, 1941	101.2	101.5	102.9	99.9	102.2	102.3	102.2	102.5	100.2	99.5	102.1	102.4	101.5	99.6	100.0	102.4
Sept. 15, 1939	100.6	100.7	101.7	99.7	100.2	101.6	99.7	101.9	100.4	99.1	101.2	102.0	101.3	99.6	99.9	101.0
June 15, 1939	98.6	98.9	100.8	99.2	99.1	100.1	98.4	100.3	98.1	97.5	100.1	98.7	98.2	98.0	97.4	99.2
Minimum cost of living for family, per year, on Dec. 15, 1941		$1,608	$1,570	$1,429	$1,607	$1,436	$1,464	$1,472	$1,459	$1,542	$1,543	$1,427	$1,628	$1,467	$1,474	$1,600

Note: Should you have any question about these figures, have your Local Union write the International Office. Figures are available for 21 cities monthly and for a total of 34 cities, four times a year. We have not printed the entire list of big cities, but only those in which we believe our members are most concerned. Should you live in a city for which figures are not collected, use the figure for "Average of All Large Cities": this is the general figure of cost of living in the United States.

Fifth Landslide Vote Won in Little Rock

Little Rock, Ark.—By a vote of 52 to four in an NLRB election early this month, workers at the Southern Cotton Oil Mill chose UCAPAWA, Local 98. This is the fifth plant in which UCAPAWA has won bargaining rights, in each case by an overwhelming majority, since the UCAPAWA organizing drive started in greater Little Rock last autumn.

Charles Jackson, President of the newly organized Southern Cotton Oil division of local 98, apologized to Otis G. Nation, Int. Rep., for losing the four votes.

"NO" VOTES A MISTAKE?

"We have been unable to determine who voted against us," said Jackson. "I am sure it was some of our men who can't read. After all, it is the first time we have ever been permitted to vote for ourselves. So for the first time, maybe this ain't so bad."

Arkansas is a poll tax state where poor people, especially Negroes, seldom vote. Workers at Southern Cotton Oil are Negro people.

Govt. Busts Up Buckeye Anti-Union Activities

No. Little Rock, Ark.—Efforts of Proctor and Gamble to keep Local 98 out of its Buckeye Cotton Oil plant here have been stymied by the NLRB trial examiner's report which orders the company to cease supporting an "independent" union, called the Brotherhood of Cotton Oil Mill Workers; and further orders Buckeye to post a notice in its plant here that all workers have a right to join UCAPAWA, and last but not least, orders the company to give their jobs back to Fred Holder and R. L. Williams, with back pay from the day they were fired, which was Nov. 20, 1941.

MEMBERS TOLD FACTS

Facts which led the NLRB's examiner to make these decisions were brought out at hearings held here from March 23 to 31, which were reported in the last issue of the NEWS. At these hearings numbers of UCAPAWA members testified, so that the entire unlawful, anti-union game of Buckeye was laid bare.

Since most of the workers in this plant are Negro, the government board's decision gives the Negro people here living proof that Uncle Sam wants to help them build a better life, along with the "white folks."

This decision has, of course, stepped up the organizing drive in this area, especially in the Buckeye plant itself where the campaign for 100 per cent membership has opened.

THIS IS AMERICA!

"For the workers in this plant and in this area," said Otis Nation, Int. Rep., "this NLRB decision means that our rights cannot be taken away by giant out-of-state corporations. It makes us all feel very happy about living in a country where working men and women still have rights. It shows us that democracies are worth fighting for."

UCAPAWA already has three contracts in greater Little Rock as the result of the organizing drive started there last autumn.

UCAPAWA Sails into Two More Ark. Polls

By Otis Nation, International Representative

Jonesboro, Ark.—Workers at two Arkansas plants will have an opportunity to vote for UCAPAWA-CIO at Labor Board elections scheduled this month.

Here in this north-east section of the state, where the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL here have said, "We do not want the CIO in our fair city," the Pierce-Williams Co. signed a consent agreement after local 89, a newly chartered local had petitioned the Board.

LOCAL AFL GANGS UP

The AFL here entered the field after UCAPAWA began an organizational drive. Bill Ellis, Financial Secretary of the local remarked that "It's mighty funny that the AFL has been in this town for 30 years and never made an attempt to raise our pay standards until the CIO came along. In fact, we all know very well that the AFL organizer has been going to the home of the Superintendent of the mill ever since UCAPAWA began helping us.

"The other organization," continued Ellis, "made an attempt to get the foremen in the appropriate unit to vote. And when I find my boss in the same union that I am in, well, brother, one of us has to get out."

This attempt failed; the NLRB refused to allow foremen to vote.

MILLING CO. ELECTION

The other Arkansas election coming up this month is at the J. F. Weinmann Milling Co. in Little Rock which has signed a consent election agreement with local 98. Here there will be no opposing union on the ballot.

Local Doubles Dues Payments; Wins Silk Banner

Memphis, Tenn.—As the result of jacking up dues paying membership from around 400 to 1,000 in the space of one month, local 19 has been awarded a green and gold silk union banner by Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane.

The banner occupies a place of honor in the union hall.

EACH PAYS SHARE

"Local 19 has good reason to be proud of the banner," said Lane. "They have done a good union job. Special mention goes to the stewards and to local Treasurer Julia Sanford who worked hard to remind the members that their UCAPAWA union needs the $1 regularly every month from each one; that no one but the members supports UCAPAWA, so each must carry his share of the freight."

Very special laurels go to the officers and stewards of the Buckeye Cotton Oil units, who pushed dues collections over the $500 mark, according to Int. Rep. Bob Sanford.

Settle Beefs With Memphis Co.

Memphis.—Malone and Hyde unit of local 19 recently won reinstatement of three union members who had been fired, about $200 in back pay for the truck drivers' helpers, and a pledge by the employer to observe more strictly the seniority lists, in a settlement of accumulated grievances.

This unit is reopening its contract on wages, asking a 15c per hour increase.

Cemetery Agreements:

Prominent Priest Signs Union Shop Contract

Detroit.—New contract between the Holy Cross Cemetery and Local 58 here calls for the union shop and check-off as well as for pay increases of from three to 10 cents an hour, which went into effect May 1. Rev. Father Clancy was one of the Holy Cross representatives during negotiations.

LABORERS' PAY IS 85c

Pay scale which is now written into the contract is:

Foremen, 95c.
Truck drivers, 90c.
Laborers, 85c.
Janitress, 63c.
Seasonal workers, 70c.
Watchmen, 68c.

VACATIONS WITH PAY

Other provisions in the contract include seniority, one week's vacation with pay for those who have been on the payroll one year or more, and payment by the Company to the members of the Bargaining Committee for time lost in settling grievances.

The contract was signed for the Union by Anthony Jaworski and Paul Ganer, Bargaining Committee members, and by Robert Clark, Int. Rep.; for the Company by Raymond S. Clancy and Frederick J. B. Gerald.

Father Clancy is known for being friendly to unions. Those who attended the CIO Convention in Detroit last November will remember that he gave the Invocation there.

Workers Expose Armour Threats

Forrest City, Ark.—Some 27 members of Local 109 made sworn statements on unfair labor practice charges against Armour's Forrest City Cotton Oil Mill recently, when Int. Rep. Bob Sanford and a representative of the federal government, Fontaine Martin, NLRB examiner from New Orleans, spent a Sunday getting evidence against the Company.

Management of this plant has used every means to fight the union, including a 100 percent signed petition against UCAPAWA-CIO, obtained by threatening to close the mill.

REPUDIATE PETITION

The petition was repudiated by UCAPAWA-CIO members who testified that they had signed it under threats of losing their jobs. Others told of being threatened with guns, lynchings and beatings if they stayed in the CIO.

Such un-American, illegal tactics will in the end only serve to arouse the workers to build a solid-rock union, as has happened in so many other cases where bosses tried to bludgeon the CIO.

Mill Workers Join 98

Little Rock, Ark.—Workers at the Thibault Milling Co. have joined local 98 here 100 percent. Local 98 already has members from six plants here, since starting organization last autumn.

Local Asks Break for Negro Ball Players

Camden, N. J.—"Organized baseball, especially the National and American Leagues, needs and should engage the services of Negro baseball players of proven ability, of whom there are many," according to a resolution of the Executive Board of local 80 which represents 6,000 workers of every color, race, creed and belief.

TRUE AMERICANISM

Among the reasons for this statement, the resolution points out that "our Negro brothers contribute their full measure to our National Life, to our National Welfare, and to our National Defense" and that "discrimination against our Negro brothers is contrary to our American creed . . ."

Renew 13 Pacts; Chalk Up Gains

By James DeWitt, Int. Rep.

Milwaukee.—After one of the hardest campaigns since its formation, local 191 has finally renewed all of its agreements with the 18 Milwaukee cemeteries.

Wage increases bring pay up to 70 to 80 cents an hour for regular employees, 60 to 65 cents for seasonal men, and 45 to 50 cents for women trimmers.

Previous union shop recognition, seniority provisions and vacations with pay were maintained.

No strikes were necessary, although for a time it looked like some were coming.

IN UNIFORM as a member of the Red Cross Medical Corps under the Civilian Defense Organization in San Antonio, Maizie G. Tamez, Secy.-Treas. of the Pecan Workers Local 172 devotes 150 hours a month to Medical Corps work in addition to her union activities.

FIGHTING UNFAIR RENTS, members of the Seattle Tenants Defense Committee picket headquarters of the Seattle Rent Committee in support of the government's rent-setting order. Maximum price rent dates are different in each city. If you are in doubt about the rule in your city, call City Hall for the answer.

11 to One for CIO

Memphis.—Union Compress and Storage voted by 80 to seven for UCAPAWA in an NLRB election on May 14. This is the fourth compress to be organized in Memphis by Local 19, which went into this election with a paid-up membership of 76.

Southern Fieldworkers'

Fight for 30c Wage Floor Gains Momentum

Kirkwood, Mo.—U C A P A W A organization and the fight for the 30c minimum for field work are moving at a good pace in this section of the South, acording to a recent report from Vice-Pres. Owen D. Whitfield, which follows:

"At Christ's Church Cathedral, about 56 delegates from Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee met with outstanding churchmen and trade unionists.

PREACHERS HELP

Nearly all of the delegates were UCAPAWA or pro-UCAPAWA White and Negro sharecropper preachers who work with the people in our union, and those we hope to get in the union in the next few days.

"Many of these preachers stood up with tears in their eyes and confessed what a fool they had been, and pledged themselves to fight for the union from their pulpits. And, believe it or not, I find they are doing just that.

$1.25 FOR 15 HOURS!

"When the entire Negro section of Wyatt was burned to the ground one Saturday night, the planters rushed in their trucks with a spirit of 'kindliness' and took these people off to those old shacks on their plantations before the FSA had time to contact them and put them ino the FSA group homes.

"Now the planters are offering to pay them $1.25 per 15 hour day, and the workers are breaking away and coming back into the FSA group homes to back up our 30c wage scale.

RELIEF CUT OFF

"All avenues of relief was cut off from our people over two weeks ago and they were told by the good ladies in the relief offices to go and hoe cotton, at a time when cotton was not even planted, and hoeing has not begun yet, only in a few places.

"In Butler County where 63 of our families were cut off from Surplus Commodities and cut off the WPA, after investigating, I found some our people were getting old age pensions, some had part time jobs, but that 24 families had nothing and were suffering.

WIN GOVT. AID

"I went to Jefferson City to get Mr. Haworth, the head of State Relief, to crack down on these local planter stooges. He made them put all of our people back on and give them commodities and cash relief for the sick and disabled.

"I then went to the FSA and got them to agree to give some grant checks to the people of our union in the FSA group labor homes, and these checks are coming in now.

"It seems that we are 'set' for anything the planters may try to start, and that we will win our wage scale," concluded Whitfield.

UNTIRING WORKER for Local 87 in Mathis, Texas, Telesforo Oviedo is justly proud of the gains made by this local of Spanish-speaking people in a few short months. As a result, the May 5 "fiesta" was a big day in town.

Owe Back Rent; Must Get 30c

Lilbourn, Mo.—Local 331's appeal to FAS Regional Director Phillip G. Beck explaining their difficulties in paying rent for FSA project homes, shows how desperately small farmers and sharecroppers need at least the 30c minimum wage for which UCAPAWA is campaigning.

DESPERATELY BROKE

"We the families of North Lilbourn Delmo Labor Group homes have met a problem that is difficult for us to solve," Local 313 wrote to Beck.

"Wheras the rising cost of living is before us and we have nothing to look to for support but cotton chopping and picking, and that at a very low wage;

"And whereas many of us are far behind with our rent and knowing that the chopping season is a very short season, we don't see where we will be able to supply ourselves with proper food and clothing and at the same time pay up our back rent.

"We are grateful to the FSA for the homes; but unless we can get a wage of 30c per hour or above, we will be unable to continue on the project . . .

"The landlords are against our program," concluded the Local 313 statement to the FSA administrator.

Celebrate Liberty in Colorful 3-Day Fiesta

By Don Kobler, International Representative

Mathis, Tex.—The first "Cinco de Mayo" fiesta held in San Patricio County since 1918 was celebrated by 2,500 Spanish-speaking workers here this week under the leadership of "El Comite Patriotico," initiated by UCAPAWA Local Union 87.

The fiesta was celebrated over a period of three days, with dancing for three nights and a colorful and impressive program on May 5th itself to memorialize the victory of democratic forces in Mexico over the foreign emperor Maximilian in 1862.

FIGHT FOR LIBERTY

In the large posters distributed for the fiesta, the workers called attention to the heroism of General Ignacio Zaragoza in leading the successful Mexican Army at Puebla as an inspiration and example for the peoples of the world in the struggle against fascism today. "We Mexicans should remember with pride the glorious deed of Zaragoza," the poster said, "because it was an example of sacrifice and patriotism, showing us how to fight and die for Liberty."

BEAUTIFUL QUEEN RULES

Maria Romero ruled over the fiesta as Queen, attended by princesses and a guard of honor, made up of the town's most beautiful girls dressed in white satins and silks. A parade was held through the streets of Mathis, led by a young member of the Texas Defense Guard carrying the American flag and another young man carrying the Mexican flag. The Queen was carried through town on a white throne mounted on a huge float and surrounded by her princesses.

Telesforo Oviedo, Secretary of Local Union 87 was master of ceremonies for the program. Leandro de Leon, as secretary of the Patriotic Committee, was in charge of arrangements and did an outstanding job in making the fiesta a success.

ALL MAKE MUSIC

The program consisted of speeches, songs and recitations by young and old alike. The program was assisted by an orchestra hired for the occasion. One of the highlights of the program was the music of three "Charros" from Laredo, who were surprise visitors and delighted the people of Mathis with their songs.

Among the visitors who spoke were Margarita Rendon and Maizie Tamez, president and secretary respectively, of Pecan Workers Union 172 of San Antonio; Juan Pena, business agent of the Mine, Mill and Smelter workers Union Local No. 412 of Laredo; and Don Kobler, Texas Regional Director of UCAPAWA.

Members of the Comision Honorifica also addressed the people, as well as visitors from neighboring towns.

DANCING, REFRESHMENTS

Stands were set up around the huge platform built for the fiesta and all kinds of refreshments were sold.

Dancing followed the program, with about $90.00 in proceeds, ten percent of which was donated to the county Red Cross organization.

In addition to Leandro de Leon, other members of the committee were: Luis Castillo, president; Calixto Padron, Vice President; Espiridion Leal, treasurer.

Isidro Guzman and Ernesto Garcia, two young spark plugs of Local 87, also spoke on the program and were tireless workers in helping to make the fiesta the greatest event among spanish-speaking workers in this area for many years.

Editor's Note: Local 87 is the local of spinach field workers which in the four months since it has been organized, besides achieving this historic celebration of Spanish-speaking people, has abolished discrimination against Mexican people in the local theater, won establishment of public night schools to teach English, forced restoration of a 3c wage cut for cutting spinach and won the right to rest on Sundays.

UCAPAWA Vice-Pres. Proposes:

Army of Harvesters from South; Only "Shortage" Is Decent Wages

Kirkwood, Mo.—While cries of "shortage of farm labor" are being raised in the South, disinherited sharecroppers, tenant farmers and migratory agricultural workers are not getting a chance to play their full part in the "Food for Victory" program.

Vice-Pres. Owen D. Whitfield takes every opportunity to call this serious situation to the attention of the government and of the public, and to make suggestions for improvement.

TO SAVE FOOD WASTE

One of Whitfield's proposals is for an army of harvesters, to be planned by the government; Whitfield outlined the scheme to the FSA as follows:

"I propose that the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, under its FSA, organize an army of harvesters to travel from one place to another in some kind of trailers or covered trucks, to harvest the crops in places where they are most needed, to the end that no perishable foodstuffs go to waste during this great crisis.

BACK TO PICK COTTON

"Those families that are too old or those that have children can take care of the cotton hoeing while this army of young people save other crops all over America and then return to the South in time to harvest the cotton.

"This plan would give them a great part in national defense, opportunity to make a decent living, restore their pride and at the same time rid the relief rolls of all able-bodied men and women.

"This plan will absolutely prevent any waste of man power in Southern rural areas, for the duration of the war," concluded Whitfield.

LABOR REPRESENTED

Representatives of the Dept. of Agriculture, and of farm and labor organizations should be appointed on a committee by the President of the United States, says Whitfield, to work out arrangements for such a mobile army, covering problems of transportation, mobile housing, medical care, and wages.

At the recent Southern Conference for Human Welfare, Whitfield and Int. Rep. Harry Koger were able to bring out the true picture of agricultural labor in the South at meetings of the panel on agricultural production, putting the kibosh on any idea that there is a shortage of farm labor in this area.

IDLE LABOR IN SOUTH

Koger told how the great mass of farm labor is still available in the eight poll tax states, and that there are thousands of tractors and all kinds of modern farm machinery to supplement.

"But," said Koger, according to Whitfield's report of the meetings, "these damn planters know there is plenty of labor, but why in the hell don't they tell the truth and say that there is a damn big shortage of decent wages?"

STFU SILENT

Representatives of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, H. L. Mitchell and J. B. Campbell, "did not make one peep during the whole three-day session," reports Whitfield, "for they knew that they had no union, only on paper, so they kept quiet for fear that Koger and I would put them on the spot."

STFU officers have "distinguished" themselves by fighting UCAPAWA-CIO for the past few years.

Dr. Draper of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, was chairman of the panel.

PENNIES OF UCAPAWA MEMBERS help workers like these in an arsenal of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. Remarkable backbone of the Chinese fighters, the peoples' cooperatives were built up in the interior when the Japanese army invaded. By contributing to the CIO's "one-hour's-pay-a-month" fund, CIO members are helping to crush the Axis on all fronts. United China Relief which aids the cooperative workers, gets a share of the CIO Relief fund.